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EXAMINER

PARTON, KEVIN S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2153

DATE MAILED: 09/10/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/661,050

Applicant(s)

ABOLADE, GBADEGESIN

Examiner

Kevin Parton

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 September 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-11, 13, 14, 16-18, 20-23, 25-27, 29-31, and 33-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) in view of the Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary (1997).

3. Regarding claims 1, 13, and 26, Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) teach a system for controlling access to a server device by at least one client device that is operatively coupled to the server device through at least one interconnecting network with means for:

- a. Causing a user-side portion of a network server logic within the server device to selectively specify at least one group from which the user-side portion would accept client device information (column 7, lines 43-48, 50-56). (Note that in the reference, the groups with access to certain commands are defined.)
- b. Causing a kernel-side portion of the network server logic to accept the client device information only if the client device information has been provided via the specified group (column 8, lines 46-55).

Although the system disclosed by Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose means wherein the group is specifically a network.

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However, Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) suggest that a group is made up of a plurality of computers connected by a communications link. It is obvious that this group is a network as evidenced by the definition stated in the Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary (1997)

The Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary defines a network as “A group of computers and associated devices that are connected by communications facilities...” (page 327). The group as defined in Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) clearly fits this definition of a network.

Given the teaching of the Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary (1997), a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) by referring to the group of computers as a network. This benefits the system by standardizing the groups and allowing for increased connectivity with a growing system of new networks.

4. Regarding claims 2, 14, and 27, Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) teach all the limitations as applied to claims 1, 13, and 26, respectively. They further teach means wherein if the client device information has not been provided via the specified network, causing the kernel-side portion to reject the client device information and notify the client device in a manner that identifies the rejection (column 8, lines 55-63).

5. Regarding claims 4, 16, and 29, Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) teach all the limitations as applied to claims 1, 13, and 26, respectively. They further teach means for:

- a. Providing a communication socket for use by the kernel-side portion (figure 1, communication line for element 300).

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- b. Causing the kernel-side portion to compare client device information received on the communication socket to the specified network (column 8, lines 46-51).
- 6. Regarding claims 5, 17, and 30, Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) teach all the limitations as applied to claims 1, 13, and 26, respectively. They further teach means wherein:
 - a. Wherein causing the user-side portion to selectively specify at least one group from which the user-side portion would accept the client device information, further includes causing the user-side portion to selectively specify a plurality of groups from which the user-side portion would accept the client device information (column 5, lines 62-63; column 7, lines 51-56).
 - b. Wherein causing the kernel-side portion to accept the client device information only if the client device information has been provided via the specified group, further includes causing the kernel-side portion to accept the client device information only if the client device information has been provided via at least one of the specified plurality of groups (column 8, lines 46-50).

Although the system disclosed by Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose means wherein the group is specifically a network.

However, Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) suggest that a group is made up of a plurality of computers connected by a communications link. It is obvious that this group is a network as evidenced by the definition stated in the Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary (1997)

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The Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary defines a network as “A group of computers and associated devices that are connected by communications facilities...” (page 327). The group as defined in Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) clearly fits this definition of a network.

Given the teaching of the Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary (1997), a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) by referring to the group of computers as a network. This benefits the system by standardizing the groups and allowing for increased connectivity with a growing system of new networks.

7. Regarding claims 6, 18, and 31, Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) teach all the limitations as applied to claims 1, 13, and 26, respectively. They further teach means wherein causing the user-side portion to selectively specify the at least one network from which the user-side portion would accept the client device information further includes having the user-side portion specify at least one local network interface (figure 1, element 200). Note this is the transmission line used for communications.

8. Regarding claims 8, 20, and 33, Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) teach all the limitations as applied to claims 1, 13, and 26, respectively. They further teach means wherein the network server logic is operatively configured to support at least one client-server based process selected from a group of processes comprising a file-sharing communication process, a TCP-based communication process, a UDP-based communication process, a HTTP-based communication process, a digital media based communication process, a DNS-based communication process, and a database related communication process (figure 1; column 8, lines 46-51). Note that a database is used. Also, any number of different transaction types can take place if authorized.

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9. Regarding claims 9, 21, and 34, Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) teach all the limitations as applied to claims 1, 13, and 26, respectively. They further teach means wherein the user-side portion includes an application-programming interface (API) operatively configured to allow an application to specify the at least one network from which the user-side portion would accept the client device information (column 7, lines 42-48).

10. Regarding claims 10, 22, and 35, Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) teach all the limitations as applied to claims 9, 21, and 34, respectively. They further teach means wherein the API is further operatively configured to allow the application to specify a listing of networks from which the user-side portion would accept the client device information (column 7, lines 51-56).

11. Regarding claims 11, 23, and 36, Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) teach all the limitations as applied to claims 10, 22, and 35, respectively. They further teach means wherein the API is further operatively configured to allow the application to selectively modify the listing of networks from which the user-side portion would accept the client device information (column 7, lines 51-56). Note that the allowed groups can be changes at any time.

12. Regarding claim 25, Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) teach a system for communications with means for:

- a. Issuing, by a user-side application, at least one group identifier from which the user-side application would accept client device information (column 7, lines 43-56).
- b. Receiving, by a user-side portion of a network server process, the at least one group identifier (column 7, lines 43-56)

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- c. Issuing, by the user-side portion, the at least one group identifier (column 7, lines 43-56).
- d. Receiving, by a kernel-side portion of a network server process, the at least one group identifier (column 8, lines 46-50).

Although the system disclosed by Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose means wherein the group is specifically a network.

However, Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) suggest that a group is made up of a plurality of computers connected by a communications link. It is obvious that this group is a network as evidenced by the definition stated in the Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary (1997)

The Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary defines a network as "A group of computers and associated devices that are connected by communications facilities..." (page 327). The group as defined in Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) clearly fits this definition of a network.

Given the teaching of the Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary (1997), a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) by referring to the group of computers as a network. This benefits the system by standardizing the groups and allowing for increased connectivity with a growing system of new networks.

13. Claims 3, 12, 15, 24, 28, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) and the Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Comay et al. (USPN 6,363,489).

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14. Regarding claims 3, 15, and 28, although the system disclosed by Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) and the Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary (as applied to claims 2, 14, and 27, respectively) shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose means wherein the kernel-side portion notifies the client device using at least one message selected from a group of messages comprising a TCP reset message and an ICMP destination unreachable message, as applicable.

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and it would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) and the Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary, as evidenced by Comay et al. (USPN 6,363,489).

In an analogous art, Comay et al. (USPN 6,363,489) disclose a system for rejection of unauthorized access wherein client device is notified using at least one message selected from a group of messages comprising a TCP reset message and an ICMP destination unreachable message, as applicable (column 7, lines 29-37). Note that a TCP reset message is sent.

Given the teaching of Comay et al. (USPN 6,363,489), a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) and the Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary by employing the use of a TCP reset message to notify rejected client requests. This is a common message used in the art and benefits the system by providing a user with insight as to why the request was rejected (i.e. not authorized as opposed to the server not being in operation).

15. Regarding claims 12, 24, and 37, although the system disclosed by Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) and the Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary (as applied to claims 1, 13, and 26,

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respectively) shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose means wherein the kernel-side portion includes a TCP/IP driver.

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and it would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) and the Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary, as evidenced by Comay et al. (USPN 6,363,489).

In an analogous art, Comay et al. (USPN 6,363,489) disclose a system for rejection of unauthorized access wherein the kernel-side portion includes a TCP/IP driver (column 7, lines 29-37). Note that TCP/IP is used for communication.

Given the teaching of Comay et al. (USPN 6,363,489), a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) and the Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary by employing the use of a TCP/IP driver on the kernel side. This is a common protocol used in internetwork communications and benefits the system by allowing for interoperability with a maximum number of other networks without integrating new protocols.

16. Claims 7, 19, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) and the Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Skopp et al. (USPN 6,256,739).

17. Regarding claims 7, 19, and 32, although the system disclosed by Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) and the Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary (as applied to claims 1, 13, and 26, respectively) shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose means wherein causing the user-side portion to selectively specify the at least one network from which

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the user-side portion would accept the client device information further includes having the user-side portion specify at least one IP address.

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and it would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) and the Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary, as evidenced by Skopp et al. (USPN 6,256,739).

In an analogous art, Skopp et al. (USPN 6,256,739) disclose a system for limiting access to network resources wherein causing the user-side portion to selectively specify the at least one network from which the user-side portion would accept the client device information further includes having the user-side portion specify at least one IP address (column 6, lines 10-14; figure 4, element 360).

Given the teaching of Skopp et al. (USPN 6,256,739), a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying Nagaoka et al. (USPN 6,574,656) and the Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary by employing the use of IP addresses to define the groups and operators. This benefits the system because groups can be defined by portions of their IP addresses that will not change.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Parton whose telephone number is (703)306-0543. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00AM - 4:30PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenton Burgess can be reached on (703)305-4792. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-3900.

Kevin Parton
Examiner
Art Unit 2153

ksp


ZARNI MAUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER